

Radio Stamps
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Hello again, and welcome to the fifth edition of *Radio Stamps* in 1993. A special welcome, as always, if you're listening to the program for the first time. This is program number 31, and the feature country today is Poland. Longwave radio stations are pretty hard to find on postage stamps, and I have collecting tips for two of them today.

Next month will be time for another **Radio Stamps** contest. During the past year the feature countries here on the **Radio Stamps** program have been Russia, Ascension Island, Dominican Republic, India, and, when I couldn't find a radio stamps country that started with O, I substituted the next letter in the alphabet and visited Peru. The other feature countries were the Solomon Islands, St. Helena, Tuvalu, Austria and Monaco. To complete this alphabetical puzzle, I'm featuring two stamps today from a country that starts with the letter P. On next month's program I hope to have the Fransson family, from Sweden, announce the contest.

Bjorn and Gunnel Fransson, and their youngest son Helga, are expected here in Canada in the next few days. They'll be arriving from the island of Gotland, where Bjorn is a well known Swedish DXer. Like me, Bjorn also collects postage stamps from around the world on the topic of radio. That's how it all started in 1983, ten years ago now, when I received a letter from Bjorn about an article I wrote on the fun of collecting radio stamps. We've been corresponding ever since and soon we'll be meeting for the first time.

Radio listening and stamp collecting, you see, are really all about people. I've been broadcasting, exhibiting my collection and writing for a decade now to promote this natural combination of hobby interests all around the world. Listening to international radio and collecting stamps from different countries is a most enjoyable way to meet and get to know other people. I've met many people from all over the globe that share these interests. It really wasn't a surprise to learn that they were shortwave listeners, DXers and amateur radio operators. Collecting stamps on the topic of radio is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

Today we're visiting the country of Poland on the coast of the Baltic Sea in east central Europe. Germany is on the west, Czechoslovakia is on the south, and the Commonwealth of Independent States is on the East. Broadcasting in Poland started in February 1925. Much of the country's radio facilities were destroyed during the second world war, however. Longwave stations have played an important role in European broadcasting for many years. There are very few stamps around the world you can add to your collection that feature longwave radio stations. Here's two you can collect from Poland.

On July 22, 1949, Poland issued a set of three stamps to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the "People's Poland". One of the three stamps in that set features the Roszyn longwave station. That's spelled R-O-S-Z-Y-N. The design of the stamp, in blue grey, shows the transmitter building and the tall radio tower of the station. The denomination is 35 Zloty and the Scott catalogue number is 456. I don't have any information about the frequency of the station, or other details, and I'd be grateful to hear from listeners that could help me with this.

In 1974 a new longwave station was established in Poland on the frequency of 227 kHz. It's featured on a commemorative stamp from Poland that was issued in 1979, on September 24th, for the 50th anniversary of the International Radio Consultative Committee. The stamp shows the radio tower of the station, in white on a grey background, complete with a listing in white lettering of the frequency, power and height of the tower. A symbolic dish antenna, in red and black, along with the black logo of the International Telecommunications Union, is also featured. Across the top, in white lettering, is CCIR 1929 - 1979. The denomination of this stamp is 1.50 Zloty and the Scott catalogue number is 2355. I don't know the location of the station, and I'd be glad to hear from you if you can help me with this information. These two distinctive stamps from Poland would make great longwave additions to your collection.

Radio listening is a lot of fun, as we all know, and it can certainly be educational. Listening to shortwave radio in the classroom is another one of my special interests. I'd be pleased to hear from other teachers around the world that use shortwave radio as an educational tool. If you're a teacher, or know of a teacher, with students that listen in the classroom to shortwave, please drop me a line and tell me about your programme. I'll give you my mailing address in a moment.

The *Radio Stamps* program is sponsored by the North American Shortwave Association. The club is underwriting the costs of mailing this volunteer program to HCJB. The North American Shortwave Association has membership across Canada and the United States, and around the world. The club produces the monthly Journal, and *Radio Stamps* is featured as a quarterly column with illustrations and collecting tips for postage stamps, meter stamps, postal cancellations and other philatelic material on the topic of radio. If you'd like to write to the club, here's the address: North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, spelled L-e-v-i-t-t-o-w-n, in Pennsylvania, or PA for short. The zip code in the United States is 19507. The address again is the North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, PA, 19507, U.S.A.

That's all for today. I hope to hear from you in 1993 with *Radio Stamps* news. I hope too that you'll write to me if you're a teacher that uses shortwave radio in your classroom. As promised, here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is K0A 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.